



South Tahoe Public Utility District

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The South Tahoe Public Utility District is a special district formed in September 1950, and provides environmentally and fiscally responsible water and wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for the community of South Lake Tahoe. Special districts are a form of local government that are usually created to provide specific services that are not being provided by other governmental entities. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that are elected in staggered four-year terms. Directors must reside within the service area of the District. Board meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Board Meeting Room located at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive. The District welcomes your attendance and participation.

The District has over 18,000 sewer connections and over 14,000 water connections. Our unique and innovative recycled water export system transports an average of 4 million gallons-per-day of reclaimed water 27 miles to the Harvey Place Reservoir, where it is stored for agricultural land application to ranches, under contract, during the dry summer months. The District is proud of this cutting edge system.

## 2013 Consumer Confidence Report

The 2013 Consumer Confidence Report, which contains valuable information regarding your drinking water, is available for viewing at [www.stpud.us/2013\\_CCR.pdf](http://www.stpud.us/2013_CCR.pdf).

If you do not have access to the internet, you may request a hard copy by contacting the Customer Service Department at 530.544.6474 during regular work hours (M - F 8am to 5pm.)

## Save Money—Fine Tune Your Sprinkler System

Automated irrigation systems offer convenience while protecting your landscape investment. A well-maintained system keeps your lawn and landscape beautiful and healthy, while minimizing water waste.

To raise awareness of the benefits of efficient watering practices, the Irrigation Association has named July Smart Irrigation Month. Make time this summer to be sure you're getting the most out of your irrigation system, while keeping utility bills low and helping to protect the environment.

- Adapt your watering schedule to the weather and the season. Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller and adjust the watering schedule regularly.
- Schedule watering for each zone separately. For each area, take into account type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, soil type and plant requirements.
- Inspect your system monthly. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, and other problems, or engage a certified irrigation professional to regularly check your system. Clean micro irrigation filters as needed.
- Adjust sprinkler heads. Remove obstructions that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly and make sure you're watering plants, not sidewalks or buildings.
- Install an inexpensive rain shutoff switch. Required by law in many states, these money-saving sensors prevent watering in rainy weather and can be retrofitted to almost any system.
- Think about low-volume drip irrigation for plant beds. Install micro irrigation for gardens, trees and shrubs to minimize evaporation and runoff. Options include drip (also known as trickle), micro-spray jets, micro-sprinklers and bubbler irrigation.
- Water at the right time of day. Watering when the sun is low, winds are calm and temperatures are cooler minimizes evaporation by as much as 30 percent. The best times to water are late afternoon, evening and just before sunrise.



- Water more often for shorter periods. Setting your system to run for three, 5-minute intervals lets soil absorb more water than watering for 15 minutes at one time.
- Water only when needed. Saturate root zones and let the soil dry. Overwatering results in shallow roots and encourages weeds, disease and fungus growth.

Smart Irrigation Month is an initiative of the Irrigation Association, a non-profit industry organization dedicated to promoting efficient irrigation. Learn more at [www.smartirrigationmonth.org](http://www.smartirrigationmonth.org). For local water conservation info, go to [www.stpud.us/water\\_conservation](http://www.stpud.us/water_conservation).

### Special points of interest:

- Important District information on rates
- Is that really flushable...?
- How to save water in your yard!
- Water Meter Info

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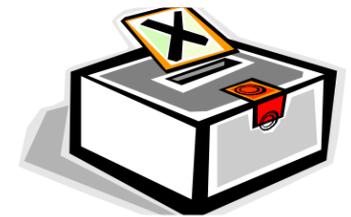
# District Digest

Summer 2014

## Board of Director Seats Up for Election

The South Tahoe Public Utility District (District) is a public agency which was established on September 28, 1950. The District supplies drinking water and provides wastewater collection, treatment and export to protect Tahoe's delicate ecosystem. Managing this complex operation requires a unique environmental sensitivity. The District is governed by a five member Board of Directors, which are elected by popular vote of the general public. On November 4, 2014, Board of Director Seats #1, #2 and #5 will be up for election. Currently, these seats are held by Chris Cefalu (Seat #1); James R. Jones (Seat #2); and Eric Schafer (Seat #5). Each Board member holds office for a four-year term and, in order to run for election, must also reside within the District service area. While serving, Board Members receive District medical, dental and vision benefits and, in accordance with Section 16002 of the Public Utility District Act, also receive a \$400 per month stipend. Board Meetings are held twice per month on the first and third Thursday at 2 p.m. in the District Board Room located at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive, South Lake Tahoe.

(See Elections on Page 3)



Elections are on November 4, 2014

## Watering Restrictions in Effect

Summer has arrived in Lake Tahoe! When working in your yard this summer, please remember that watering restrictions are currently in effect.

The following provisions of the Water Conservation Program are necessary to conserve water resources and minimize cost to the District and our customers:

- Do not allow water to flow over the ground surface or from sprinklers onto surfaces that are not able to absorb water, or on neighboring properties.
- Repair all leaks in plumbing and irrigation systems.
- The irrigation of non-landscaped, natural vegetation or undeveloped property is prohibited.
- Always use an automatic shut-off nozzle on hoses. Continuous discharge from a hose is prohibited.

(See Restrictions on page 3)

## Board of Directors Passes Rate Increase

At the regularly scheduled Board meeting on June 5th, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to increase rates by 6.5% for water, and 6% for sewer, effective July 5th, 2014. These were the maximum that rates could be adjusted, based upon the Proposition 218 notice that was mailed out to customers in April. The decision by the Board was made after they heard the staff report on the final tabulation of objections received as part of the Proposition 218 process. Valid protests received were 342 (1.88%) against the sewer increase, and 305(2.17%) against the water increase. A 50% protest vote was required to prevent the adoption of the proposed rate increases.

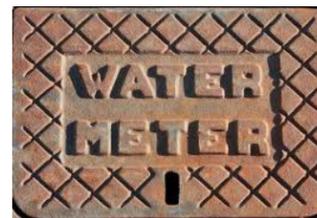
The staff recommendation, as part of the annual budget process, was to increase water rates by 9.5%. This recommendation was based on infrastructure projects that were identified as a priority to be completed in the next 10 years. Specifically, completing the metering of all residential customers per the State of California requirements, and the installation of upsized water lines for adequate fire-fighting capability, were identified needs. The Board had voted to reduce the staff recommendation to 6.5% in March when deciding what the maximum rates would be for the Proposition 218 notice, citing balancing customer affordability with delaying completion of fire-fighting infrastructure.

For the metered water rates, the Board also voted to increase the water meter base charge from 70% to 80% of the entire bill, while lowering the consumptive portion of

the bill from 30% to 20%. This adjustment was made to better match the District's revenue structure to its expense structure, so that fluctuations in use due to meter installations, weather patterns, and water conservation efforts wouldn't result in the need for another rate increase. The protest vote on this change to the metered water charge received was 260 (1.85%).

Future adjustments in the District's rates, as allowed by the Proposition 218 notice, would require a new vote each year by the Board of Directors. The District plans to continue extensive public outreach efforts to inform the public on the progress of infrastructure improvements.

For additional information, please visit our website at [www.stpud.us](http://www.stpud.us), e-mail us at: [info@stpud.dst.ca.us](mailto:info@stpud.dst.ca.us), or call us at 530-544-6474.



The District is moving forward on the water meter installation project.

"The District plans to continue extensive public outreach efforts to inform the public on the progress of infrastructure improvements."

## Don't Flush That!

Flushing the toilet should be a simple thing, but if you put the wrong things in it, it could create an ugly mess and lead to very expensive repair costs.

Many materials frequently flushed or poured down the drain can harm the pipes that connect to the sewers, as well as the sewer system. Every property connected to the sewer system can be a potential contributor to sewer problems, and a potential victim of those problems.

Toilets often are used as a trash can. Putting the wrong things down the drain can damage the sewer system, cause sewer backups in your home, and sewer releases to the environment. Not only that, but flushing non-human waste down the toilet wastes

water. Every time you flush that toilet, it can waste 3 gallons of water or more, depending on the toilet. It also increases your water bill if you are a habitual trash-flusher.

Here are some key items that you **DON'T** want to put down your toilet:

- "Flushable" Wipes
- Vitamins or Medicines
- Cotton Swabs or Cotton Balls
- Paper Towels
- Diapers
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Cat Litter

- Cigarette Butts
- Condoms
- Greasy or Oily Substances
- Disposable Toilet Wipes / Bowl Brush Heads
- Poisons or Hazardous Waste



## Restrictions (Continued from page 1)

Please report to the District all signs or indications of water leaks or water waste. And remember, Water the Right Day...and the Right Way!

### The Right Way is...

- Properly amend the soil before planting any vegetation.
- Water the appropriate amount for the vegetation type and soil conditions.
- Never apply more than one inch of water to your lawn per application. Tahoe soils have limited water holding capacity.
- Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller and adjust the watering schedule regularly to conform with seasonal weather conditions.
- Mulch around plants to help retain moisture and regulate soil temperature
- Group plants with similar water needs

### The Right Day is...

Even Numbered Addresses:

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**

Odd Numbered Addresses:

**Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday**

**NO LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION ON SATURDAY**

### Exemptions

An exemption to the restrictions above shall exist under normal conditions for new landscaping including: newly planted sod (21 days), seeded lawns (30 days), and bedding plants (15 days.) The property owner, or their designee, must **notify the District, verbally or in writing**, to obtain an exemption for the establishment of new vegetation as outlined above. Hand-held hoses with an automatic shut-off nozzle, and drip or low flow irrigation systems are exempt from restrictions. **Contact (530) 543-6268.**



Replacing turf with native plants is a great way to save water in your yard!

## Elections (Continued from page 1)

Interested persons can declare their candidacy during the filing period, beginning July 14, 2014, and ending on August 8, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. If the incumbent fails to file for their term by the last day of the filing period, the time will be extended for five (5) days (until August 13, 2014). Please be advised that this extension **DOES NOT APPLY** if there is no eligible incumbent to be elected. **Note: The incumbent may not file after August 8, 2014.** Declaration of Candidacy papers are available at the Elections Department in Placerville, or at the El Dorado County Recorder-Clerk's office located at 3368 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, Suite 108 in South Lake Tahoe.

\*El Dorado County Recorder-Clerk's Office is closed daily from 12 to 1 p.m.



## Metered Consumption: How to Calculate Your Water Bill

If you recently had a water meter installed at your property, you may have noticed new information on your quarterly water bill. Once a meter is installed, you begin a one year informational billing period. During this period you will continue to be billed on the flat rate, but the water consumption for your property will be shown on the bill. The consumption is listed to help you prepare for possible changes in your water bill once you are transferred to metered billing.

### How does metered billing work?

Every customer will pay a Water Meter Base Charge, lower than our current flat rate, as well as water consumption charge.

### How is consumption data reported?

Water consumption is reported on your bill as units of Hundred Cubic Feet (CCF) of water per quarter.

**Once I have consumption data, how do I calculate what my bill would be if actually billed by volume?**

**Example:** If you have a 3/4 inch meter and your consumption is 26 units:

Quarterly Base Charge: \$111.06

Consumption Charge: \$0.86 x 26 = \$22.36

**Total Quarterly Water Bill: \$133.42**

If you have any questions or concerns about how to calculate your bill, please contact the Customer Service Department at 530.544.6474.

